

Attorney Docket No.: EMC-99-027DIV1
Applicant: Preston F. Crow et al

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action mailed January 10, 2006 and the Advisory Action mailed March 29, 2006, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and entrance of the above amendment. In the Office Action, claim 16 was rejected, claims 17-20 were objected to, and claims 21-28 were indicated as being allowable. By this amendment, an amendment to claim 17 is proposed and claim 16 has been canceled. Therefore, upon entrance of this amendment, claims 17-28 will be pending in this application.

Rejection of Claim Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pub. No. US: 2004/0133570 A1 of Soltis in view of US Patent No. 4,761,737 to Duvall. By this amendment, independent claim 16 has been canceled, without prejudice to the subject matter of independent claim 16. Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is moot and should be withdrawn.

Allowable Claim

In Section 7 of the final Office Action, the examiner indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this proposed amendment, claim 17 has been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claim 17 is now allowable over the art of record.

Since claims 18 - 20 depend from claim 17, applicants assert that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

Allowed Claims

Applicants acknowledge and appreciate the indication that claims 21-28 are allowable.

Based on the foregoing, applicants respectfully assert that claims 17-28 are allowable over the art of record and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this application.

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In the event the Patent Office deems personal contact desirable in disposition of this matter, the Office is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (508) 293-7835.

Please charge any fees occasioned by this submission to Deposit Account No. 05-0889.

4/10/06

Date

Respectfully submitted,

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